

**By Leonard Leo and Talal Eid**

As Christians around the world prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, their brothers and sisters in Iraq face the unthinkable: the possible obliteration of their community, one of the oldest Christian communities in the world.

Victimized by violence, displacement, discrimination, and marginalization, Iraq's Christians have been emigrating in mass numbers. Those remaining in Iraq fear for their lives and safety. Their plight is urgent. For both humanitarian and security reasons, the United States, along with other nations, must respond decisively.

[Click here to view the entire op-ed.](#)

USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission. USCIRF Commissioners are appointed by the President and the leadership of both political parties in the Senate and the House of Representatives. USCIRF's principal responsibilities are to review the facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom internationally and to make policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State and Congress.

To interview a USCIRF Commissioner, contact Tom Carter, Communications Director at [tcarter@uscirf.gov](mailto:tcarter@uscirf.gov), or (202) 523-3257.